

Message Text

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SUBJECT "ZARYA VOSTOKA" ATTACK ON CULTURAL PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 073644, (B) MOSCOW 4254

1. EMBASSY APRIL 5 MANAGED TO OBTAIN COPY OF "ZARYA VOSTOKA" PIECE ON WHICH TASS ITEM (REFTEL B) WAS BASED. DESPITE OUR REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO "ZARYA VOSTOKA," ISSUE OF MARCH 23 WAS NEVER DELIVERED TO EMBASSY.

2. PARAGRAPHS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE, REQUESTED REFTTEL A, COME IN MIDDLE OF ARTICLE AFTER COMMENT THAT IN PAST ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE AND PROPAGANDA HAD MADE THEIR WAY INTO GEORGIA PRIMARILY VIA TOURISTS AND OTHER PERSONS VISITING FROM ABROAD: (BEGIN TEXT) "NOW NEW CHANNELS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE. ANTI-SOVIET PUBLICATIONS BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN GEORGIA THROUGH THE POSTAL SYSTEM FROM CITIES AND PLACES WHERE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS, FAIRS AND EXHIBITS TAKE PLACE. USING THESE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND THEIR STATUS AS GUESTS, THE ANTI-UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIETISTS BRING INTO THESE CITIES THEIR HOSTILE PUBLICATIONS AND FROM THERE TRY TO SEND THEM OUT THROUGH THE POSTS TO SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO PRIVATE CITIZENS. THIS IS HOW SOME PEOPLE IN THE WEST TREAT THE PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION SET FORTH IN HELSINKI AND EMBODIED IN THE PRACTICE OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

"WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, INCLUDING THE CIA, ALSO ACTIVELY

MAKE USE OF EXPANDING CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

"GUESTS OF GEORGIA - EMPLOYEES OF THE US EMBASSY IN THE USSR - IN MAY, 1973 IN TBILISI TESTED THE RECEPTION OF THE 'VOICE OF ISRAEL' AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE RADIO DIVERSION CENTERS WITH THE HELP OF A SPECIAL RADIO RECEIVER AND A TAPE RECORDER. IN NOVEMBER 1973, THEY AGAIN CAME TO TBILISI AND INTERESTED THEMSELVES IN PORTIONS OF RADIO LIBERTY'S HEAVY PROGRAMMING IN THE GEORGIAN AND ARMENIAN LANGUAGES (ACTUAL RUSSIAN IS 'POINTERRESOVALIS' UCHASTKAMI VESHCHATEL'NOGO DIAPAZONA 'RS' NA GRUZINSKOM I ARMYANSKOM YAZYKAHK"). SOON AFTER (NOTE: THIS IS AT VARIANCE WITH TASS SUMMARY REPORTED PER REF B WHICH USED 1976 AS DATE FOR JAZZ BAND VISIT), AS PART OF A CULTURAL EXCHANGE, AN AMERICAN JAZZ GROUP COMES TO GEORGIA ON TOUR. ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, ROBERT PECK, ALSO MOONLIGHTED ("VYSTUPIL V SOVMESTITEL'STVU")

AS A CHECKER OF THE AUDIBILITY OF SUBVERSIVE RADIO STATIONS ON THE TERRITORY OF GEORGIA. THEN, IN THIS PECULIAR 'CULTURAL EXCHANGE', THIS JAZZMAN WAS REPLACED BY STAFF MEMBERS OF AMERICAN EXHIBITS AND OTHER 'CULTURAL FIGURES', WHO FOUND THEMSELVES A PLACE IN THE ARTS SO AS TO INTERFERE WITH THE NATURAL STRIVING OF TWO PEOPLES FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." (END TEXT)

3. PARAGRAPHS CITED ABOVE CONSTITUTE ONLY SMALL PORTION OF ARTICLE OF OVER 72 COLUMN INCHES UNDER HEADING OF "WHO BENEFITS FROM THIS?" ("KOMU ETO VYGODNO?"). UNNAMED AUTHOR OF ARTICLE APPARENTLY TRIES TO TOUCH ALL THE BASES. HE ATTACKS GEORGIAN EMIGRE CIRCLES IN PARIS, IDENTIFYING ONE 'RALIS' ("WHOSE REAL NAME IS MARK ISRAEL") AS A CIA UNCLASSIFIED

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AGENT. RL COMES IN FROM PREDICTABLE POUNDING, AND NAMES OF NUGZAR SHARIYA AND D. MARSHANIYA FEATURE PROMINANTLY. GOODLY CHUNK OF ARTICLE ATTACKS WRITER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA FOR HIS CONNECTION WITH RL. TWO AMERICAN TOURISTS (NAMES GIVEN ARE IRA JEFFNER AND JOEL MICHAELS) ARE ACCUSED OF DISTRIBUTING "ZIONIST" LITERATURE. SEA CAPTAINS WHO ARRANGE DEFECTIONS ARE ALSO MENTIONED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH STORY OF ONE SAILOR, MCHEDLISHVILI, WHO DEFECTS, GOES INSANE, AND EVENTUALLY HANGS HIMSELF--ABANDONED BY THOSE IN WEST WHO ENCOURAGED HIM AT FIRST. EVEN FORMER NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT ALFRED FRIENDLY IS TROTTED OUT FOR CRITICISM OF HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF BLACK MARKETEERING AS A GEORGIAN NATIONAL TRAIT.

4. ARTICLE ENDS WITH QUOTE FROM BREZHNEV'S SPEECH TO TRADE UNIONS, LAST LINE OF WHICH IS THE OMINOUS REFERENCE TO TAKING "MEASURES FORESEEN BY OUR LAWS" AGAINST DISSIDENTS.

5. "ZARYA VOSTOKA" ON MARCH 31 RAN FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE BY

ONE A. BREGVADZE, IDENTIFIED AS A DOCTOR OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES, RECAPITULATING ALL MAIN POINTS OF THE MARCH 28 PIECE. BREGVADZE'S CONTRIBUTION IS HEADLINED: "SCUM -- SPIRITUAL RENEGADES TO THE PILLORY*" TOON

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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e1defa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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